



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 142

January Session, 2017

Substitute Senate Bill No. 353

Senate, March 22, 2017

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. LEONE of the 27th Dist. and SEN. WITKOS of the 8th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN APPRENTICE, JOURNEYMEN AND CONTRACTOR WORKING GROUP.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 working group to discuss hiring ratios for apprentices, journeymen
3 and contractors and study the hiring ratio relief process. The working
4 group shall meet at least three times annually and shall study and
5 make recommendations related to apprentices, journeymen and
6 contractors.

7 (b) The working group shall consist of ten members, and shall be
8 evenly divided between members of the following union and
9 nonunion industry trade groups: The International Brotherhood of
10 Electrical Workers, the Independent Electrical Contractors of New
11 England, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut,
12 Sheet Metal Local 40, Sprinkler Fitters Local 669, the Connecticut
13 Chapter of American Fire Sprinkler Association, the United

14 Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777, the Plumbing
15 Heating and Cooling Contractors of Connecticut, the Connecticut
16 Heating and Cooling Contractors and the Connecticut State Building
17 and Construction Trades Council.

18 (c) Such members shall be selected as follows:

19 (1) Two union members appointed by the speaker of the House of
20 Representatives;

21 (2) Two union members appointed by the president pro tempore of
22 the Senate;

23 (3) One nonunion member appointed by the majority leader of the
24 House of Representatives;

25 (4) One union member appointed by the majority leader of the
26 Senate;

27 (5) Two nonunion members appointed by the minority leader of the
28 House of Representatives; and

29 (6) Two nonunion members appointed by the minority leader of the
30 Senate.

31 (d) All appointing authorities shall consult with the chairpersons
32 and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General
33 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the Department of
34 Consumer Protection prior to making any appointments pursuant to
35 this section.

36 (e) All appointments to the working group shall be made not later
37 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
38 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

39 (f) The members of the working group shall select the chairpersons
40 of the working group from among the members of the group. One
41 chairperson shall be a union member and one chairperson shall be a
42 nonunion member. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting

43 of the working group.

44 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
 45 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
 46 Department of Consumer Protection shall serve as administrative staff
 47 of the working group.

48 (h) Not later than December 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
 49 working group shall submit a report on its recommendations to the
 50 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
 51 of matters relating to the Department of Consumer Protection, in
 52 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

53 Sec. 2. Section 20-332b of the general statutes is repealed and the
 54 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

55 The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall amend existing
 56 regulations of Connecticut state agencies adopted pursuant to section
 57 20-332 to specify the following allowable hiring ratios regarding
 58 apprentices, journeymen and contractors for the following trades:

T1	TRADE			
T2	Electrical, Plumbing, Heating, Piping and Cooling,			
T3	Sprinkler Fitter and Sheet Metal Work			
T4				
T5	Apprentices		Licensees	
T6			(Journeymen or Contractors)	
T7	1		1	
T8	2		2	
T9	3		[5]	<u>3</u>
T10	4		[8]	<u>6</u>
T11	5		[11]	<u>9</u>
T12	6		[14]	<u>12</u>
T13	7		[17]	<u>15</u>
T14	8		[20]	<u>18</u>
T15	9		[23]	<u>21</u>

T16 10 [26] 24
T17
T18 Ratio continues at 3 Journeypersons
T19 To 1 Apprentice

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	20-332b

GL *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which revises the apprentice hiring ratios and creates a working group on the topic, results in no fiscal impact. The Department of Consumer Protection is directed to amend existing regulations, which it does in the normal course of operations. The working group is staffed by legislative employees who have sufficient expertise to carry out expected duties.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 353*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN APPRENTICE, JOURNEYMEN AND CONTRACTOR WORKING GROUP.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a 10-member working group to (1) discuss hiring ratios for apprentices, journeymen, and contractors and (2) study the hiring ratio relief process. By December 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, it requires the working group to report its recommendations to the General Law Committee.

For certain trades, the law specifies the minimum number of licensed journeypersons or contractors who must supervise apprentices at worksites. The bill reduces, by two, the number required to supervise three or more apprentices in the following trades: electrical; plumbing; heating, piping, and cooling; sprinkler fitter; and sheet metal work. It retains the requirement that one journeyperson or contractor be onsite for one apprentice, and that two be onsite for two apprentices. Under the bill, the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) must amend its existing regulations to reflect the new hiring ratios.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

WORKING GROUP

The bill requires that the working group (1) meet at least three times per year and (2) study and make recommendations on hiring ratios for apprentices, journeymen, and contractors and a hiring ratio relief process. Its 10 members must have equal representation from the following union and nonunion industry trade groups:

1. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,

2. Independent Electrical Contractors of New England,
3. Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut,
4. Sheet Metal Local 40,
5. Sprinkler Fitters Local 669,
6. Connecticut Chapter of American Fire Sprinkler Association,
7. United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777,
8. Plumbing Heating and Cooling Contractors of Connecticut,
9. Connecticut Heating and Cooling Contractors, and
10. Connecticut State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Under the bill, the (1) Senate president and House speaker each appoint two union members; (2) Senate and House minority leaders each appoint two non-union members; and (3) Senate and House majority leaders appoint one union and nonunion member, respectively.

Appointing authorities must make appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage. Before doing so, they must consult with the General Law Committee's chairpersons and ranking members. Appointing authorities fill vacancies.

The working group must select the chairpersons from its members. One chairperson must be a union member; the other, a nonunion member. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting and the General Law Committee's administrative staff must serve in the same capacity for the working group.

HIRING RATIOS

Under DCP regulations, apprentices may work only in the presence and under the direct supervision of licensed contractors or journeypersons (Conn. Agency Regs., § 20-332-15a). Table 1 shows the

current statutory hiring ratios, as well as those under the bill.

Table 1: Hiring Ratios Under Current Law and the Bill

<i>Apprentices</i>	<i>Licensed Journeypersons or Contractors</i>	
	<i>Current law</i>	<i>The bill</i>
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	5	3
4	8	6
5	11	9

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, an additional three contractors or journeypersons are required to hire each additional apprentice.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/07/2017)